

## Issue Brief – West Valley Support Center

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DHS-09-18

### **WEST VALLEY SUPPORT CENTER**

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) requests \$182,300 from the General Fund to open a third family support center in the Salt Lake Valley for FY 2009. The Analyst does not recommend this request of \$182,300 from the General Fund.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of support centers (crisis nurseries) is to provide child protection, and to promote family preservation and stability.

### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Support centers provide a safe location for children to be cared for in the event of a family crisis. Support centers offer services in situations where a parent has been injured in an automobile accident or the mother goes into labor. Services are also provided if the parents are fighting or undergoing a stressful situation, or for children who are at risk of child abuse. Children can also be brought to a support center if the parent needs to go to Alcoholics Anonymous or mental health therapy.

Currently, there are two support centers in the Salt Lake area, one in Sugar House and the other in Midvale. DCFS contracts with the Family Support Center to provide crisis nursery care for children and families. The following table shows the services provided:

<b>Services Provided in the Two Salt Lake Support Centers</b>				
	<b>Midvale Shelter</b>		<b>Sugarhouse Shelter</b>	
	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>
Children Served	517	1,230	564	1,084
Nights w/o Children	298	163	268	n/a
Adult Therapy	17	27	15	27
Education Classes	87	9	55	6
Group Classes	87	89	55	67
Family Info & Referral	2,648	2,444	1,864	2,019

DCFS proposes a third center in the West Valley area. The highest concentration of substantiated child abuse cases occur in West Valley, Taylorsville and Kearns. The building in West Valley has been donated and DCFS is requesting funding of \$182,300 in General Fund to cover operating expenses.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Analyst does not recommend this request of \$182,300 from the General Fund for FY 2009.